

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A personal surround sound system for an individual listener, comprising:
 - a receiver for receiving the individual decoded speaker signals for a surround sound system comprised of four speaker signals, left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals;
 - a head mounted binaural speaker system having a right binaural speaker disposed proximate to the right ear of the listener and a left binaural speaker disposed proximate to the left ear of the speaker;
 - a virtual positioning system for positioning each of said left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals relative to the listener as virtually positioned left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals such that said virtually positioned left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals can be transmitted proximate to the right and left ear of the listener as binaural signals through said right and left binaural speakers, but are actually perceived by the listener as being at the intended position of the associated left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals; and
 - a combiner for combining said virtually positioned left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals such that all four virtually positioned left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals are combined to drive said right and left binaural speakers.

2. The personal surround sound system of Claim 1, wherein said receiver is operable to further receive a center speaker signal for the surround sound system and output the center speaker signal on an external speaker disposed in front of the listener.

3. The personal surround sound system of Claim 2, and further comprising a summation circuit for summing together a portion of each of said left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals as a composite signal with said center speaker signal for output on said center speaker.

4. The personal surround sound system of Claim 3 and further comprising a delay circuit for introducing a predetermined amount of delay into the signal input to said center speaker.

5. The personal surround sound system of Claim 1, and further comprising a video device for containing an encoded surround sound system audio track with surround sound speaker signals comprised of said left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals encoded therein and a decoder for decoding said surround sound system speaker signals from said audio track for input to said receiver.

6. The personal surround sound system of Claim 1, wherein said right binaural speaker and said left binaural speaker are mounted on a support bracket disposed on the head of the listener and directed rearward toward the ears and disposed away from the ears.

7. The personal surround sound system of Claim 6, wherein said right binaural speaker and said left binaural speaker are disposed proximate to the zygomatic arch on the respective side of the head of the listener and directed rearward toward the respective ear of the listener.

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9. A method for reproducing a surround sound audio track proximate to the head of an individual listener, comprising the steps of:

receiving individual decoded speaker signals for a surround sound system comprised of four speaker signals, a left front, a left rear, a right front and a right rear speaker signal;

virtually positioning each of the left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals such that they can be transmitted proximate to the right and left ear of the listener as binaural signals, but are actually perceived by the listener as being at the intended position of the associated left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals;

disposing a right speaker proximate to the right ear of the listener and a left speaker proximate to the left ear of a speaker; and

combining the virtually positioned left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals in the left speaker and right speaker such that all four virtually positioned left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals are combined to drive the right and left speakers.

10. The method of Claim 9, and further comprising:

providing a video device having a surround sound audio track disposed thereon having the left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals encoded therein; and

extracting the audio track from the video device and decoding the left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals therefrom for the step of receiving.

11. The method of Claim 9, and further comprising:
receiving a center speaker signal associated with the surround sound
system;
providing an external center speaker; and
driving an external center speaker with the center speaker signal in
front of the listener.

12. The method of Claim 11, and further comprising summing together a
portion of each of the left front, left rear, right front and right rear speaker signals as
a composite signal with the center speaker signal for output on the center speaker.

13. The method of Claim 12 and further comprising introducing a
predetermined amount of delay into the signal input to the center speaker.

14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of disposing the right
speaker proximate to the right ear of the listener and the left speaker proximate to the
left ear of the listener comprises:

disposing a head mounted bracket on the head of the listener;
mounting the right speaker on the bracket proximate to the right ear of
the listener and then directed rearward toward the right ear of the listener; and
mounting the left speaker on the bracket and directed rearward toward
the left ear of the listener.

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